PERIOPERATIVE ATTIRE FOR THE OPERATING SUITE

PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The patient’s surgical outcome is influenced by the creation and maintenance of an aseptic environment. All personnel must aim to minimise the introduction of microorganisms (such as multi-resistant organisms or infectious diseases) into the Operating Room by adhering to the wearing of correct perioperative attire.

REFERENCES
ACORN Standards (2008) - Perioperative Attire S11
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing - Infection control guidelines for the prevention of transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting January 2004
Infection Control Policy PD 010 – Area Infection Control Policy
NSW Health Hand Hygiene Policy Standard Draft 5 April 2009
NSW Health Policy Directive PD2007_036 Infection Control Policy
POW (April 2008) - Perioperative Attire Policy
The St George Hospital (June 2008) – Attire for Operating Suite Personnel, Policy No. 41
The Sutherland Hospital and Community Health Service (March 2006) - Perioperative Attire in the Operating Suite including CSSD

1. OPTIMAL OUTCOMES
   • To minimise the risk to the patient of a post operative wound infection
   • To prevent the introduction of contaminates into the perioperative environment and interventional units
   • To prevent workers from taking contaminates in and out of the Operating Suite (OS)
   • To protect workers from contaminates within the OS environment

2. PATIENT
   • Any person undergoing surgical intervention.

3. STAFF
   • medical
   • nursing
   • allied health workers
   • visitors
   • corporate service workers

Perioperative environment includes the following areas
   • POW/SCH Operating Suite
   • RHW Operating Suite
   • Cardiothoracic Operating Suite
   • Urology Operating Suite
   • X-Ray/Medical Imaging Department Procedural Rooms
   • POW Private Operating Suite
   • Endoscopy unit
PERIOPERATIVE ATTIRE FOR THE OPERATING SUITE  cont’d

4. EQUIPMENT/ PERIOPERATIVE ATTIRE
   • Blue tops and pants
   • Blue dresses with panty hose
   • Blue long sleeved over gowns
   • Warm up jackets
   • Socks or panty hose
   • Head scarves, surgical caps and balaclavas
   • Foot wear, shoes clogs and overshoes
   • Masks
   • Sterile green gowns
   • Hospital identification badge shall be pinned or clipped onto the perioperative attire. Lanyards shall not be worn due to infection control and occupational health and safety research evidence, ACORN (2008) Standards S11.

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

5.1 Wearing of perioperative attire is mandatory in the following restricted areas
   • Anaesthetic bays
   • Operating rooms (OR)
   • Sterile stock room
   • Equipment store rooms
   • Interventional procedure rooms

5.2 Either hospital uniform or perioperative attire is permitted in the following semi restricted areas
   • Holding bay
   • Front office
   • Recovery
   • Recovery Day Stay

5.3 Staff are not permitted to visit the following dirty areas in their perioperative scrub attire
   • Cafeteria when staying to eat or drink (collecting a meal only is permitted when an over gown is worn)
   • Non patient areas e.g. libraries
   • Car parks
   • Mortuary
   • Home
   • Outdoor areas
   • Other health care facilities and ward areas where patients with multi resistant organisms are nursed including Neonatal Intensive Care and Newborn Care Unit
   • Non hospital sites such as shopping centres

When leaving the perioperative suite to visit wards or other areas, a blue over gown must be worn, See 5.4.3.
5.4 Perioperative Attire considerations

5.4.1 General

- Blue tops and pants
- Dresses with pantyhose
- Replace all outer garments with the prescribed perioperative attire when entering the Perioperative environment in accordance with ACORN Standards S11 1.1(2008). All shirts, pants, skirts and dresses are to be removed. **Short** sleeved undergarments are permitted to be worn providing they are not visible under the short sleeved scrub tops issued (ACORN Standards S11 1.2). Long sleeved under garments are not permitted in accordance with NSW Health Mandatory Hand Hygiene Policy Standard. Long sleeved warm up jackets are provided for added warmth and cultural preferences.
- A clean set of hospital supplied perioperative attire must be worn each day and changed when visibly soiled (ACORN Standards S11 1.3)
- Soiled items are to be placed into the linen bag (if heavily soiled with blood or body substances/ fluids items to be placed in clear plastic bag first)
- Socks/pantyhose must be worn, no bare feet/legs
- Personnel wearing their own personal perioperative attire are responsible for laundering and are to don a fresh set each day.

5.4.2 Warm up jackets/ gowns

- Blue warm up jackets or long sleeved white cotton gowns can be worn in the Perioperative environment
- Gowns should be worn tied at the back and warm up jackets should be fastened to avoid flapping which may contaminate the sterile field.

5.4.3 Over gowns

- Long sleeved blue or white (if blue gowns are not available) over gowns must be worn over perioperative attire when leaving the perioperative environment, not blue warm up jackets.
- Over gowns must be worn tied at the back
- Over gowns must be discarded when re entering the Perioperative environment
- Over gowns are not a substitute for changing perioperative attire

5.4.4 Cap/Head scarf

- Single-use items are to be discarded each day or when visibly soiled
- Personal cap/scarf – including the hajib, must be laundered at home and a clean item worn each day
- Caps/scarves must completely cover the head
- Personnel with beards must wear balaclavas

5.4.5 Shoes/clogs

- Closed toed shoes/clogs may be worn without overshoes
- Shoes must be water repellent
- Commercially produced clogs with holes in the uppers e.g. ‘Crocs’ are not to be worn – these pose an OH&S risk as sharp objects and blood may injure/contaminate feet
- Disposable overshoes are available to be worn over street shoes in restricted areas if required for OH&S and aesthetic purposes
- Staff should wash their hands after touching overshoes, inside or outside shoes
- **Shoes must be cleaned immediately if visibly soiled.**
- Shoes must be cleaned on a regular basis
5.4.6 *Masks*
- Must be worn in restricted areas when performing invasive procedures on patients for OH&S purposes
- Must be worn when the sterile field is open
- Must be removed when not in use and not worn around the neck or stored in a pocket
- Must be changed regularly – at least every two hours
- Must be discarded by holding the ties only
- Hands should be washed following removal of mask

5.4.7 *Jewellery*
- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum and restricted to those items that can be contained within the perioperative attire e.g. neck chains
- Wedding/plain bands, sleeper or stud earrings only can be worn. NB wedding/plain bands must be removed prior to performing surgical scrub
- Nail polish/false nails must not be worn when performing direct patient care due to evidence that they can harbour microorganisms which cannot be effectively removed during routine or surgical hand washing procedures and therefore pose a risk of infection
- Wrist watches should be removed when performing direct patient care to prevent injury to patients and the possible harbouring of microorganisms within watch bands

6. **HAZARDS/SUB-OPTIMAL OUTCOMES**

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the spread of contaminants across the Area Health Service.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the increased likelihood of the patient acquiring an infection due to the introduction of contaminants into the perioperative environment.

Wearing of soiled sterile scrub gowns outside of the operating room will accelerate the spread of contaminants. Sterile scrub gowns are to be removed inside the operating or procedure room and are not to be worn in the tea room.

Changing soiled perioperative attire as soon as practical will minimise the risk of cross infection.

Preventing staff from leaving the perioperative environment, or re-entering after visiting other health care facilities and dirty areas will minimise the spread of contaminants from those affected areas.

Perioperative attire from this campus must not be worn to other hospitals, including the Prince of Wales Private Hospital.

Attire from any OS or procedural room must not be worn within another OS or procedural room within this campus with the exception of POW/SCH and RHW as they share the same environment.

7. **DOCUMENTATION**

This business rule is available for all staff as a reference

Audits of compliance with this policy will be undertaken on a regular basis

8. **EDUCATIONAL NOTES**

New staff upon entering the perioperative environment will be made familiar with this business rule and the expectations as to its compliance.

This policy will be placed on the Northern Network web site and be available for other staff within the hospital to be aware of.

Staff working in areas other than theatres should not wear light blue scrubs as normal work attire.